Cultural and Arts centre in Hilly areas

1589. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made towards promotion and development of arts and culture in the State of Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government have set-up or propose to set up Cultural and Arts centres in the hilly areas of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with functions and objectives thereof and achievements made by them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Protection, Promotion and Development of Indian Art and Culture is a major task of the Department of Culture. The Archaeological Survey of India looks after conservation and maintenance of 42 monuments in Uttaranchal, 40 in Himachal Pradesh and 69 in Jammu & Kashmir State. Funds to the tune of Rs. 25.30 lakhs were released to various organizations in the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) for upkeep of museums in Uttaranchal. Besides a project for construction of Uday Shankar Academy of Dance and Music at Almora is being funded under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Development and Maintenance of National Memorials. The Government of India has approved a grant of Rs. 5.00 crores for this project.

Under the Scheme of setting up of Multi-Purpose Cultural Complexes, the Department have sanctioned Rs. 150 lakhs to Himachal Pradesh Government and 162.50 lakh to Jammu & Kashmir Government. The Zonal Culture Centre at Patiala and Allahabad work for the promotion of diverse folk culture. The Akademies take up the promotion of cultural diversity in the areas of literature, performing arts and visual arts. National School of Drama has been organizing short term, intensive, production oriented theatre workshops in Nainital, Pithoragarh, Haldwani, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Almora etc. during the last 5 years on regular basis.

Promotion of Haridwar as a Tourist Destination

1590. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haridwar, a religious place has not been promoted as centre of tourist attraction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that road between Delhi and Haridwar is not to that of international standard; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to widen the road between Delhi and Haridwar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified and prioritized in consultation with them every year under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/ Infrastructure & Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The following projects during Tenth Plan period have been sanctioned for development of Haridwar:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of project	Amount Sanctioned
	2000-01	
1	Development of Haridwar-Rishikesh as a Tourist Destination:— i. Development of Green Great Vista for Haridwar. ii. Landscaping and parking development along Ganga river at Rishikesh	557.50
	2003-04	
2	Mounting of Sound and Light Show at Haridwar on the bank of Ganga river.	192.06

(c) and (d) As per information received from the Department of Road Transport and Highways, the road from Delhi to Haridwar has been approved for 4/6 laning under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase IIIA on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Bids for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 6-laning of Delhi-Meerut section have been received in National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and are under evaluation. Work of 4-laning of Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section of NH-58 (79 Km) has been awarded on BOT basis. Bids of the work for 4-laning of Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar section of NH-58 (77 Km) on BOT basis are likely to be invited by NHAI in March, 2006.